

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1480
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
THORIUM BASED ENERGY PROJECTS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating on option of Thorium-based energy projects for self-reliance in the field of atomic energy in future;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has identified the Thorium reserves in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

a) Yes, Sir.

b) Yes, Sir.

c) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a unit under the DAE has established 10.21 million tonnes of Monazite resources in Riverine/ Teri and Beach sand placer deposits in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Bihar States. Monazite resources contains about 9-10% of ThO₂. About 8,07,713 tonnes of thorium can be recovered from the said monazite resources which will be used for future programmes of DAE.